Your Problems

By Ann Landers

DEAR ANN LANDERS: Thank you for the "medal" which you recently awarded the parents of retarded and handicapped children.

Most parents in this category consider ourselves pretty ordinary folks upon whom fate has dropped an enormous personal and social problem. Only those of us who live with the problem know what it's like. The heartache we endure, the soul-searching we do, and the knowledge we are forced to acquire, give us added wisdom and deep compassion for all people.

I've never met parents of a retarded or handicapped child who are arrogant or quick to judge others. Even the brothers and sisters of these unfortunate ones are invariably wise beyond their years.

If I could ask one favor of the people who read your column it would be this: If you know parents of a retarded or handicapped child, for the love of God and all little children, reach out your hand to them. They need you. If you know too little of their problem ask for information. They have drawers filled with literature and will be glad to share it. Information will help you to educate your children so they will not look upon the unfortunate ones as freaks.

Every child needs love and understanding. Even though he may seem millions of miles away, he knows. Kindness can transcend unbelievable barriers. It can be felt in the touch of a hand, heard in a voice, and seen in a smile.—GAIL'S DAD

Thanks for Reminder

Dear Dad: Thank you for a letter which could have been written only by someone who has lived with the problem. We all need to be reminded, to thank God for blessings which we take for granted. Thanks for reminding us.

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Dear Ann: April is a little late to be talking about what happened in December, but I thought it would blow over. Instead, I keep hearing comments, so I decided to write to you at this late date.

I sent 82 Christmas cards to personal friends. On these cards was my name alone. To very close friends I sent another type of card on which was printed both my name and my fiance's. He said it was "poor taste" in his opinion but if I wanted to send them to go ahead.

Since Christmas, we've been criticized, both separately and together. What was wrong with it? After all, it just said "Season's Greetings." It didn't say "From our house to your house" or anything like that. Please inform me.—MISS B.

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Dear Miss B.: I agree with your fiance that such a card was in poor taste. Joint Christmas greetings suggest a coziness which should be reserved for married couples.

Her Mother Is a Slob

Dear Ann: What do you think of a mother who sits around in her bathrobe from morning till night watching TV and listening to radio programs?

The house is always so filthy I wouldn't dream of inviting anyone over. When a gentleman asks for a date I meet him downtown and say goodnight at the front door.

There are never any groceries in the house unless I buy them, although I give mother $35 a week for room and board. I'm 28 years old and she still opens my mail and listens in on the second telephone.

I suggested she get a job to keep her interests up, although she can live nicely on her inheritance from Dad's estate. She says a person is crazy to work unless he has to. Do you think she needs a doctor . . . or do I?—AMY.

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Dear Amy: She may need a doctor, but one thing is certain—YOU need a new address. It's high time you got out of that pig pen. A woman of 28 who has no privacy and can't invite guests in because the house is filthy, is in desperate need of a change of scenery. Get going, Girl.

(Ann Landers will be glad to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of this newspaper enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope).

Michiko Learns Manners

Demure Michiko Shoda, commoner bride-to-be of Japanese Crown Prince Akihito, follows her tutor as she arrives at an annex building of the imperial palace in Tokyo where she is studying court manners. The royal wedding takes place next Friday. —(AP Photofax.)

Smoking Confined

GREENSBORO, N.C. (UPI) —Guilford College relaxed a regulation which has prohibited women students at the 122-year-old Quaker school from smoking within a mile of the campus.

They will now be permitted to smoke in the campus soda shop.

Junior-Senior Split Urged by Trustees

PENTICTON (CP) — Separation of junior and senior high schools is advocated by the Penticton board of school trustees in a brief before the Chant royal commission on education. The 10-page brief maintains the original purpose of the junior high school has been lost.

Fought for Conservation

Park Plaque Honors Woman Flower Lover

The unveiling in Beacon Hill Park Wednesday of a bronze plaque, donated by her two daughters and son honored a Victoria woman who devoted many years of her life to the conservation of British Columbia's wildflowers and trees.

Members of Victoria Natural History Society and the Local Council of Women gathered in the park to pay respects to the memory of Elizabeth C. Mackenzie, well known for her fight for legislation to protect the native dogwood and the rhododendron.

"Mrs. Mackenzie was a remarkable woman, Dr. Clifford Carl, curator of the provincial museum told the gathering.

Dr. Carl recalled that Mrs. Mackenzie, who settled in Victoria in 1922, spent years, as the president of the now defunct Society for the Preservation of Native Plants, pressing the government to protect dogwood and rhododendron.

"She let no one stand in her way," he added. "She persistantly pressed cabinet ministers for the legislation."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Mrs. H. W. S. Soulsby, president of the Victoria NHS, planted some trilliums around the plaque.

The trillium was another flower Mrs. Mackenzie sought to protect. It was becoming rare due to over-picking and logging operations. In 1958, nine years after her death, the trillium was added to the list of flowering plants protected by law.

The plaque rests on a stone in a grove of trees near the Emily Carr bridge on the Douglas side of the park.

See the World, Fall in Love!

NEW YORK (UPI) — Two weeks with pay can pay off in matrimony, if a girl calculates properly.

This is why a new travel gimmick dreamed up by a young New Yorker (ultimate victim of his own scheme) is catching on among the single set.

Richard Lowenstein said that his "Bachelor Party Tours, Inc." aren't designed for match-making. But he added, "travel does provide the perfect climate for love."

The tours take the eligible only—including divorced persons, widows and widowers—to the Caribbean, Europe, Mexico or Hawaii.

Lowenstein, was himself a bachelor when he ran his first singles-only tour to Europe a year ago. He met his wife later on a similar tour to Mexico.

"We start many friendships among single men and women," he said.

"Being carefree people with common interests, they got a lot of fun out of sharing their travel experiences."

Patterns Leave 'Home'

The popular pattern feature, displayed on the women's pages for many years will in future appear in the classified section. The patterns take up residence in their new home today.

All the Rage Now

Painting Bees Get Jobs Done With Speed, Fun

Many hands make light work.

This was the motto of our grandparents as they all pitched in to help with barn raising, corn husking and making quilts.

Today's electric blankets, canned corn and prefabs make those particular bees a thing of the past but there is one bee that's all the rage right now.

BAND TOGETHER

"We're having a painting bee," can be heard these spring days in many suburban spots as the community bands together to tackle a necessary painting job.

For example, in the suburb of one Canadian city recently, the congregation of a new church were torn between the desire to renovate the old house bought as a rectory and the need to channel as much money as possible toward the upkeep of the church proper.

WIVES HELPED

The men decided to undertake the job with the help of their wives.

Here's how they did it and had fun as well.

The men estimated the amount of paint, and chose a quick-drying paint with a latex base for cleanliness and ease of application.

Each supplied his own brushes, rollers and trays. A team was assigned to each room with the necessary quota of paint.

POT LUCK LUNCH

The women prepared and served a pot luck lunch and supper as their part. The whole job was completed in one day.

The idea caught on and was adapted to home decorating.

Friends and neighbors can help each other. The women bring sandwiches or casseroles with everyone dressed in old clothes.

While the men paint the walls, the women work on the woodwork and touch up corners that the men miss with their rollers.

USEFUL TIPS

Some tips gained from painting bees are these:

1. Turn the paint cans upside down the night before the bee to make mixing easier.
2. Take down pictures, mirrors and drapes.
3. Use inexpensive splatter clothes on furniture and floors.
4. Do your paint removing, crack filling and sanding in advance.

An average thunderstorm may release 50 times as much power as the first atomic bomb.

Knight-Gardner Rites

Victoria Couple Married By Bridegroom's Uncle

The marriage of Miss Joan Gardner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Gardner, 3054 Doncaster Drive and Mr. Robert Douglas Knight, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Knight, 1246 Fairfield Road, was performed recently at a quiet ceremony by Rev. E. Wright, uncle of the groom. Miss Gardner's only attendant was Mrs. Nora Synder. Best man was Mr. Ron Edmonds.

For her wedding the bride wore a blue afternoon dress with a red rose corsage and her attendant chose a blue floral print with pink roses. At the reception in the bride's family home, Mr. George West proposed wedding toasts. Following an Up-Island honeymoon, the couple are residing at 483 Fraser Street.

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Ferguson-Holland

At a quiet ceremony in Centennial United Church Rev. Douglas Carr officiated at the double ring ceremony when Mrs. Lillian Florence Holland was united in marriage with Mr. Samuel Chalmers Ferguson of White Rock, B.C. Easter lilies and daffodils decorated the church.

The bride wore a "keepsake blue" marquisette gown over taffeta appliqued with Chantilly lace, petal pink hat and carried a colonial bouquet of pink shaded carnations.

Mrs. Stafford Boyd attended the bride and wore a Dior blue taffeta dress with matching Tudor hat and carried a colonial bouquet of spring flowers.

Mr. Thomas Crosland was best man.

A reception was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Crosland, Sturdee Street.

The couple will make their home in Victoria.

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Broadbent—Gaidford

In a naval wedding at Fleet Parish Church, Fleet, Hampshire, England, Janet, eldest daughter of Col. George Gaidford, DSO, and Mrs. Gaidford, and granddaughter of Mrs. Alec Gillespie of 1968 Fairfield Road, became the bride of Lieut. David Broadbent of White House, West Wittering, Sussex, England.

Special guests at the wedding were the bride's godfather Col. James Groves, MC, and Mrs. Groves, formerly of Duncan, V.I.

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